

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 00786 170134Z

73

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-10 SCCT-01 /072 W

----- 060781

R 161330Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6357

INFO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 0786

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, OORS, PINT, PFOR

SUBJECT: MFN ASSASSINATIONS RAISE PROSPECTS FOR UPSWING

IN MIZORAM FIGHTING

REF: NEW DELHI 16958

SUMMARY: THE GOI IS PREPARING TO RESPOND FIRMLY TO THE JANUARY 13 MIZO NATIONAL FRONT ASSASSINATION OF THREE SENIOR INDIAN POLICE OFFICERS IN AIJWAL, THE MIZORAM CAPITAL.

NEWSPAPER REPORTS PRESUAMBLY BASED ON OFFICIAL SOURCES STATE THAT ADDITIONAL MILITARY UNITS WILL BE SENT TO MOZORAM AND THE ARMY WILL BE ALLOWED A FREER HAND IN DEALING WITH THE INSURGENTS. INCREASED INDIAN ARMY ACTIVITY COULD RESULT IN AN EXODUS OF MIZO INSURGENTS FROM INDIA INTO LONG-HELD MIZO SANTUARIES IN THE BURMESE ARAKAN HILLS AND THE CHIT-TAGONG HILL AREA OF BANGLADESH, SPARK CROSS BORDER FIGHTING AND POTENTIALLY LEAD TO MORE LAW AND ORDER PROBLEMS FOR RANGOON AND DACCA. THE OVERWHELMINGLY CHRISTIAN (AMERICAN BAPTIST AND PENTACOSTAL) COMPOSITION OF THE NAGA AND MIZO POPULATIONS, INCLUDING THEIR INSURGENT ELEMENTS,

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NEW DE 00786 170134Z

AND PERIODIC VISITS BY MIZO NATIONALISTS TO OUR CALCUTTA

CONSULATE IN SEARCH OF DEVELOPMENTAL ASSISTANCE, MAY PROVIDE GROUNDS FOR SUSPICION AMONG SOME INDIAN OFFICIALS THAT A LINKAGE EXISTS BETWEEN THE MIZO INSURGENCY AND THE US
END SUMMARY.

1. THE RECENT INTENSIFICATION OF MIZO NATIONAL FRONT (MNF) ACTIVITY REPORTED REFTEL WAS GIVEN DRAMATIC EFFECT ON JAN 13 WHEN TWO MIZO TERRORISTS DRESSED AS POLICE OFFICERS WALKED INTO THE MAIN AIJWAL POLICE STATION AND SHOT TO DEATH THE MIZORAM INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE AND TWO OTHER SENIOR POLICE OFFICERS. THE TERROR-SLAYINGS REPRESENT THE FIRST MNF EFFORT TO GIVE CONCRETE FORM TO THE JANUARY 1 "EXPLOSION" ORDER ON ALL NON-MIZOS ANNOUNCED BY THE MNF LATE LAST YEAR AND REPORTED REFTEL. NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS DESCRIBE THE ASSASSINATIONS AS THE MOST SERIOUS INCIDENT SINCE THE INSURGENCY BEGAN NINE YEARS AGO. IT IS THE MOST SERIOUS ATTACK ON INDIAN POLICE AUTHORITIES SINCE INDEPENDENCE.

2. NEWSPAPER REPORTS PRESUMABLY BASED ON OFFICIAL SOURCES ARE STATING THAT THE GOI HAS DECIDED TO RESPOND TO THE ASSASSINATIONS BY AUGMENTING INDIAN ARMY FORCES IN MIZORAM (NOW AT ONE FULL BRIGADE) AND ALLOWING THE ARMY A FREEER HAND IN DEALING WITH THE INSURGENTS. THE GOC, EASTERN COMMAND, LT. GEN. JACOB ARRIVED IN AIJWAL JANUARY 14 TO OVERSEE THE ANTICIPATED INCREASE IN INDIAN ARMY ACTIVITY. UNION HOME MINISTER BRAHMANANDA REDDY WILL LEAVE DELHI ON JANUARY 18 FOR A FIVE DAY VISIT TO THE NORTHEAST.

3. A MORE VIGOROUS MILITARY CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE MIZO INSURGENTS (ESTIMATED "HARD CORE" STRENGTH: 600-700) WILL CO-INCIDE WITH THE INDIAN ARMY'S STEPPED UP ACTIVITIES AGAINST THE NAGA INSURGENTS (ESTIMATED "HARD CORE" STRENGTH: 1,300 REPORTED IN NEW DELHI 15412. THE INCREASED TEMPO OF MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MIZORAM COULD MOVE THE GOI TO REQUEST MILITARY COORDINATION FROM RANGOON, (WHICH IS ALREADY COOPERATING IN THE CASE OF THE NAGAS(SEE RANGOON 3235), AND DACCA. THE MIZO INSURGENTS OCCUPY LONG-HELD AND LITTLE DISTURBED SANCTUARIES IN THE ARAKAN HILLS OF BURMA AND THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NEW DE 00786 170134Z

ADJOINING CHITTAGONG HILL AREA OF SOUTHEASTERN BANGLADESH. IT IS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT AN INTENSIFICATION OF INDIAN ARMY ACTIVITY IN MIZORAM WILL PRODUCE AN EXODUS OF MIZO REBEL GROUPS INTO THESE SANCTUARY AREAS, SPARK INCREASED CROSS BORDER FIGHTING, AND POTENTIALLY CREATE MORE LAW AND ORDER HEADACHES FOR THE BURMESE AND BENGALI. THE MEA JOINT SECRETARY RESPONSIBLE FOR INDO-BURMESE RELATIONS TOLD US LAST WEEK THAT SO FAR AS HE COULD DETERMINE, THE BURMESE

REALLY DID NOT HAVE ANY EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATION IN THE BORDER AREAS ADJOINING NAGALAND AND IN THE ARAKAN HILLS. (WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN EMBASSY RANGOON'S COMMENTS).

4. INCREASED INDIAN CONFRONTATION WITH THE NAGA AND MIZO INSURGENCIES IN THE REMOTE INDIAN NORTHEAST MAY ALSO HEIGHTEN ALREADY HELD INDIAN SUSPICIONS ABOUT THE US. ASK WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, THE NAGA AND MIZO POPULATIONS, INCLUDING THEIR INSURGENT ELEMENTS, ARE OVERWHELMINGLY CHRISTIAN -- MOSTLY CONVERTS OF AMERICAN BAPTIST AND PENTECOSTAL MISSIONARIES. INDIAN OFFICIALS AND JOURNALISTS HAVE OCCASIONALLY COMMENTED PRIVATELY THAT NAGA AND MIZO NOTIONS OF SEPARATENESS AND INDEPENDENCE STEM PRIMARILY FROM THIS PRE-INDEPENDENCE CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY INFLUENCE. SIMILAR COMMENTS ARE MADE ABOUT TRIBALS IN THE NORTHEAST FRONTIER AREA (ARUNACHAL PRADESH). OVER THE PAST YEAR, MIZO NATIONALISTS (ONE FORMERLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE MFN) HAVE ON SEPARATE OCCASIONS APPROACHED OUR CALCUTTA CONSULATE FOR USG DEVELOPMENTAL ASSISTANCE. THE CONSULATE HAS UNDERSTANDABLY TREATED THEM AT ARMS LENGTH AND WILL BE EVEN MORE CAREFUL IN THE FUTURE, SUCH VISITS HAVE UNDOUBTEDLY BEEN NOTICED BY INDIAN INTELLIGENCE AND COULD PROVIDE GROUNDS FOR SUSPICION OF A USG-MIZO INSURGENCY LINKAGE.

5. INDIAN CONCERN OVER THE IMPACT OF CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES ON TRIBAL SEPARATIST SENTIMENTS IN THE NORTHEAST HAVE BEEN LARGE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE GOI POST-INDEPENDENCE DECISION NOT ONLY TO TERMINATE FOREIGN MISSIONARY WORK THROUGHOUT INDIA (ASIDE FROM STRAIGHT EDUCATIONAL OR MEDICAL ACTIVITY) BUT ALSO FOR THE STRONG AND CONTINUING GOI RELUCTANCE TO ISSUE VISAS EVEN FOR BRIEF VISITS BY FOREIGN CHURCH AND BIBLE WORKERS.

SCHNEIDER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 NEW DE 00786 170134Z

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARAMILITARY FORCES, ASSASSINATION, TRIBAL DISORDERS, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NEWDE00786
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750018-0127
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750146/aaaabopg.tel
Line Count: 154
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 NEW DELHI 16958
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUL 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MFN ASSASSINATIONS RAISE PROSPECTS FOR UPSWING IN MIZORAM FIGHTING
TAGS: PINS, PINT, PFOR, MIZO NATIONAL FRONT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006